

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 03474 052041Z

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AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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SUBJ: PUERTO RICAN COMMUNIST SPEAKS AT SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS

1. SUMMARY. THE HEAD OF THE PUERTO RICAN DELEGATION TO THE SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS PRAISED MOSCOW'S PEACE POLICY AS SERVING THE "CLASS STRUGGLE," AND DESCRIBED HIS ISLAND AS AN AMERICAN "COLONY" AND A "FORTRESS" FOR AGGRESSION. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA (MAR 5) CARRY THE TEXT OF THE SPEECH TO THE SOVIET 25TH PARTY CONGRESS THE PREVIOUS DAY BY FRANKLIN IRIZARRI, DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE PUERTO RICAN COMMUNIST PARTY. HE PRAISED THE SOVIET PARTY AND GOVERNMENT ("EVERY EFFORT BY THE USSR IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE IS A STIMULUS FOR US") AND FIRMLY DEFINED "DETENTE" AS A POLICY TO SERVE THE "CLASS STRUGGLE." ("THERE IS NO GREATER FALSEHOOD" THAN THE NOTION THAT DETENTE MEANS CLASS COOPERATION.) HE ALSO DENOUNCED MAOISM ROUTINELY.

3. IRIZARRIA CHARGED THAT "PUERTO RICO REMAINS A COLONY OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM," WHICH REAPS "GREAT ECONOMIC AND

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 03474 052041Z

POLTICAL DIVIDENS" FROM THE ISLAND, WHICH HE DESCRIBED

AS AN "AMERICAN FORTRESS" FOR LAUNCHING AGRESSION AGAINST
LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES -- "THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, CUBA,
VENEZUELA, PANAMA AND OTHERS." HIS PARTY, HE SAID, IS
LEGAL BUT REPRESSED.

4. IRIZARRI WENT ON TO LIST THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE
"ECONOMIC CRISIS" IN THE ISLAND--WAGES ARE ONE-THIRD LOWER
THAN AMERICAN WORKERS WHILE THE COST OF LIVING IS 25
PERCENT HIGHER, 60 PERCENT LIVE BELOW THE POVERTY LINE
AND 40 PERCENT OF THE WORK FORCE IS UNEMPLOYED.

5. HE CLOSED BY PRAISING AGAIN THE GREAT SOVIET PEOPLE,
"WHO CONSIDER US AS THEIR SONS."

6. COMMENT. EXCEPT FOR THE SELF-EFFACING CLOSING, THE
SPEECH SEEMS TO BE ABOUT WHAT ONE WOULD EXPECT IN THE
SETTING, AND SERVES TO STRENGTHEN THE SOVIET-SUPPORTED
MYTH ABOUT AMERICAN "COLONIAL" DOMINATION OF THE
"PEOPLE" OF PUERTO RICO.
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